



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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YIELD PROSPECTS REMAIN FAVORABLE

NASHVILLE, November 10, 2005 – Hot, dry conditions dominated the month of October as an unusually warm fall weather pattern gripped the State. With this scenario, yield prospects for the State's corn and soybean crops remained unchanged from the previous forecast, while prospects for cotton increased. The recent dry weather allowed farmers to accelerate harvest efforts at a pace 2 to 3 weeks ahead of normal. The November 1 forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 130 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month, but 10 bushels below 2004; **Cotton**, 862 pounds per acre, up 31 pounds from a month earlier; **Soybeans**, 38 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month, but down 3 bushels from year ago.

STATE RECORD COTTON PRODUCTION

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 1.14 million bales, up 40,000 bales from last month and, if realized, a new State record. Based on conditions as of November 1, cotton yields are forecast at 862 pounds of lint per acre, up 31 pounds from last month and the second highest yield on record. Growers expect to harvest 635,000 acres, 110,000 more than 2004. Excellent harvest weather, some of the best in history, has certainly been beneficial for growers and has translated into more lint and good quality. The overall reasons for this outstanding yield, as has been the case the last few years, are adequate rain and heat units during critical times, better varieties, and the positive results of the Boll Weevil Eradication Program. As of November 6, over 90 percent of the acreage had been harvested, about two weeks ahead of the normal pace.

SOYBEAN YIELD FORECAST UNCHANGED FROM LAST MONTH

The State's soybean production is forecast at 41.8 million bushels, unchanged from last month, but 14 percent below 2004. Growers are expected to harvest 1.10 million acres, 7 percent below a year ago. Tennessee's soybean yield is forecast at 38 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month and the third highest on record. Double-cropped bean yields are surprising many producers, as they are averaging better than expected. Dry October weather allowed farmers to advance their harvest at a pace 3 weeks ahead of last year and, as of November 6, less than 10 percent of the acreage remained to be harvested.

CORN PRODUCTION DOWN 11 PERCENT FROM 2004

Corn production is forecast at 76.7 million bushels, unchanged from last month's forecast, but down 11 percent from 2004. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 130 bushels per acre, down 10 bushels from last year's record. Tennessee's acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 590,000 acres, down 25,000 acres from last year. Harvest was virtually completed by the end of October, as ideal weather conditions allowed farmers to finish their harvest activities on schedule. Farmers across the State reported a wide range of yields for their crop this year, depending on the location and the amount of rainfall they received.

(OVER)

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 1, 2005, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	Lbs	---	---	---	---	11,000	9,000
Corn for grain	Bu	615	590	140	130	86,100	76,700
Cotton ¹	Lbs	525	635	900	862	984	1,140
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	Tons	1,900	1,850	2.50	2.50	4,750	4,625
Peaches	Tons	---	---	---	---	1.95	1.90
Soybeans	Bu	1,180	1,100	41.0	38.0	48,380	41,800
Tobacco, All	Lbs	30.26	23.26	2,161	2,189	65,381	50,918
Dark fire-cured	Lbs	5.72	5.72	3,115	3,000	17,816	17,160
Burley	Lbs	24.0	17.0	1,920	1,900	46,080	32,300
Dark air-cured	Lbs	.54	.54	2,750	2,700	1,485	1,458
Winter Wheat	Bu	280	150	49.0	56.0	13,720	8,400
UNITED STATES							
Apples	Lbs	---	---	---	---	10,419,900	9,379,100
Corn for grain	Bu	73,632	74,333	160.4	148.4	11,807,217	11,032,105
Cotton ¹	Lbs	13,057	13,673	855	813	23,250.7	23,161.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	Tons	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.94	82,391	76,931
Peaches	Tons	---	---	---	---	1,307.1	1,233.9
Soybeans	Bu	73,958	71,270	42.2	42.7	3,123,686	3,043,116
Tobacco, All	Lbs	408.04	307.01	2,155	2,083	879,227	639,566
Dark fire-cured	Lbs	11.73	12.47	3,167	3,184	37,151	39,708
Burley	Lbs	153.15	105.30	1,908	1,826	292,172	192,285
Dark air-cured	Lbs	4.26	4.04	2,799	2,787	11,922	11,258
Winter Wheat	Bu	34,462	33,680	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,493,769

¹ Production in 480-Lbs net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

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